

Testimony for Bainville Wastewater, Capitol Room 317B 1/16/14

Patrick Murtagh, Murtagh Municipal Engineering, 208 N 29th St., Suite 223 Billings, MT 59101

Bainville has grown faster than any other city or town in the State in decades. Bainville is only 15 miles from the North Dakota border and is the closest town to Williston. In 2008 the Town upgraded its lagoon system to serve a population of about 160 people including allowable growth to just over 200. However, the Bakken boom soon stormed into Bainville, and by 2012 the residential population was 400, with a mancamp nearby that would soon add another 350 people.

The odors from the lagoon system were terrible. Even before the construction of the mancamp, by 2012 the system was only half the required size. The Town wanted to grow, but had to put a moratorium on construction until the wastewater system could be fixed. No permits were issued during the boom from 2009 – 2012. However, even with the moratorium, many single family residences became homes to more than one family and trailer parks became completely filled.

Working with the mancamp developers the Town was able to have the developer pay for a large expansion of the existing lagoon. This was done at no cost to the Town, and allowed for inclusion of the mancamp into the Town and use of Town facilities. However, the system is not large enough to provide treatment for all the pending building permits.

The new lagoon system allows for facultative treatment of the mancamp and the 2014 population. Seeing that even this huge expansion would not be sufficient for long, the Town implemented the highest wastewater impact fee in the State at \$7,300 per unit. This was put in place prior to even one of the permits pending since late 2009 was ever issued.

The Town has extremely high user rates, well over \$100/month, and the highest wastewater impact fees in the State. Despite the high growth due to the Bakken, Bainville has not received any special funds from the State or Roosevelt County. We hope that you will consider helping the Town with the proposed aeration system that will eliminate odors associated with the facultative system and even allow for septage handling.



While more than quadrupling in size, Bainville has already negotiated \$2 million of improvements from a developer and assesses \$7,300 Impact Fees for Wastewater alone.